

8.

STUDENT SESSION: MAKE IT YOUR OWN

“You heard that was freedom that you could come in here and be any ol’ person that you wanted to be named ‘Jules,’ you know, and do it. And that’s what you did.”

—Samuel L. Jackson

CHAPTER REVIEW

Sam encourages our student actors to take ownership of their characters. Remember that you aren’t bound by what other actors have done before you when portraying similar roles. You have creative freedom to take a one-dimensional character on the page of a script and bring them to life as a whole person.

TAKE IT FURTHER

- Read [these tips](#) on character building and think about what quality you can bring to your characters that extends beyond the obvious.

ASSIGNMENTS

- Reimagine a character from a classic script (Shakespeare, for example). What if they were a different gender, a different nationality, and/or from a different background? Pick one, and create a backstory for that character from this new perspective. Record yourself reading one of the character’s monologue from the script in a reimagined way. Try to clear your mind and start with an empty slate. Do your best not to imitate what other actors have done before you.
- Sam demonstrates for the student actors that they can play Jules as any person they want. Practice performing the monologue you broke down in chapters 3 and 4 in different ways. Change the character’s goals, not just the inflections in their voice. The different versions of performance will come from changing the intention. Does the context of the monologue change if you act it differently? Do the stakes of the monologue change? Film your performances and share them in [The Hub](#), then provide feedback to your classmates.

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